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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CO, Hq. 66th CIC Group, USAREUR, APO 154, US Army  
 to Attn: Mr. W.L. Parkinson, CS Office DATE: 15 September 1954  
 from T.C. Hughes, OCA  
 subject: SAEVECKE, Theodor

1. Reference is made to my memo of 19 July 1954, file Bv-54-1631, SUBJECT as above.
2. Attached hereto, for your information, are photostatic copies of five documents pertaining to SAEVECKE which were provided to OCA by CIA, Washington, for OCA's discretionary use in connection with the present investigation of SAEVECKE which is being conducted by the Federal Interior Ministry. On 3 September 1954 Mr. R. Shea of OCA and I gave photostatic copies of these documents to State Secretary von LEX of the Interior Ministry.
3. Von LEX stated that he very much appreciated being provided with the documents, which could be regarded as an exoneration of SAEVECKE insofar as Allied interest in him as a war criminal or participant in war crimes was concerned. Von LEX further stated that SAEVECKE was regarded as one of the most competent Sicherungsgruppe (Security Group) officials and for this reason had been rapidly promoted since his attachment to the Security Group although von LEX, in view of the fact that SAEVECKE had been an early Nazi, had opposed the last recommendation for SAEVECKE's further promotion on the ground that former Nazi adherents, regardless of professional capabilities, should not rise too quickly to responsible positions in the present government.
4. The contents of the attached documents clearly state that SAEVECKE was in 1947 of no further interest to either American or British authorities as a perpetrator of, or as a witness to, any alleged war crime. At the time of transmission, von LEX was cautioned to the effect that, although US authorities were releasing the documents to him for his use and consideration in connection with any official proceedings against SAEVECKE, the documents are to be considered confidential and are to be used for official purposes only.
5. On 4 September 1954 I informed both SAEVECKE and Dr. Ernst BRUECKNER, chief of the Sicherungsgruppe, Bundeskriminalamt, and SAEVECKE's immediate superior, that the material had been transmitted to von LEX.

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5 Incls a/s (1 cy ea)

- 1--Photostat of ltr, 10 Nov 47, Subj: War Crimes Clearance, file 000.5 (R 1366), Dachau Detachment, 7708 War Crimes Group
- 2--Photostat of ltr, 31 Oct 47, Subj: Theo SAEVECKE, OC War Crimes Group, South East Europe. (British)
- 3--Photostat of ltr, 10 Nov 47, Subj: Release of SAEVECKE, Theo, 7708 War Crimes Group.
- 4--Photostat of statement of Theodor HAUTH, dtd 16 Dec. 46, re Theodor SAEVECKE.
- 5--Photostat of internment record of SAEVECKE, Theo, Case No. 31 o 6669067.

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Bv-54-2044

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release  
 by the Central Intelligence Agency  
 Date: 2007, 2005

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CO, Hq. 66th CIC Group, USAREUR, APO 154, US Army  
 to Attn: Mr. W.L. Parkinson, CS Office DATE: 15 September 1954  
 FROM: T.C. Hughes, OCA  
 SUBJECT: SAEVECKE, Theodor

1. Reference is made to my memo of 19 July 1954, file Bv-54-1651, SUBJECT as above.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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 TO Attn: Mr. W.L. Parkinson, C. Of.ice DATE: 19 July 1954  
 FROM T.C. Hughes, OCA 1 1954  
 SUBJECT SAEVECKE, Theodor

FOR CIC EYES ONLY!

SUBJECT is an official of the Sicherungsgruppe (Security Group) of the Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Agency) with offices at SG headquarters in BONN. His official title is that of a Kriminalrat and he has been serving as chief of the so-called "Operational Group" of the SG which deals with the investigation of espionage, treason and political crimes.

In conversations with both SAEVECKE and Dr. Ernst BRUECKNER, head of the Security Group, on 14 and 16 July, they informed me of the following:

On 1 July, Dr. BRUECKNER was called to the Interior Ministry where he was informed by a Regierungsrat FRITZE of the Personnel Section of charges which have been directed against SAEVECKE by Italian sources pertaining to SAEVECKE's activities in Italy during WWII where he served as a Kriminalrat and SS Sturmfuhrer in charge of the Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei) office in MILAN under the jurisdiction of the Police Leader for Upper Italy West (Polizeifuhrer Oberitalien West), SS Standartenfuhrer (fmu) BAUER. The charges are that SAEVECKE

- 1) participated in the execution of Italian civilian hostages in MILAN;
- 2) that he participated in the persecution of Jews in Italy;
- 3) that he participated in the arrest and deportation of Italians;
- 4) that he participated in the or at least tolerated the mistreatment of Italian prisoners who were under his supervision and control.

BRUECKNER defended SAEVECKE, pointing out that the latter had not attempted to conceal his past when applying for employment with the BKA in 1950, and insisted that SAEVECKE also be informed of the charges against him and be provided with the opportunity of defending himself. As a result of BRUECKNER's attitude, SAEVECKE was also called to the Ministry where FRITZE informed him that objections to his present employment had been raised on the basis of his former activity in Italy and informed him of the charges.

In conversation with FRITZE, and subsequently, SAEVECKE has determined that this attack was initiated some months ago when a member of the Italian Parliament, (fmu) MELBA, contacted the German Foreign Office (Auswaertiges Amt) in BONN with some sort of a story concerning SAEVECKE's former activity in Italy. SAEVECKE claims that he does not know details of MELBA's contact with the Foreign Office personnel.

LATER, in some manner unknown to SAEVECKE, he was denounced to the Interior Ministry. He states that he does not know whether or not the denunciation was passed to the Interior Ministry by the Foreign Office as a result of MELBA's contact with the AO, or whether there was a separate

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contact with the IM. At the end of June, RR FRITZE was sent to Italy to investigate the denunciation. FRITZE contacted and interviewed the following people concerning SAEVECKE's former activity in MILAN:

Consul Dr. (fnu) MATZKE, German Consul, MILAN,  
 Mgr (fnu) KREY, MILAN  
 Mgr (fnu) DON PICCHIARAI, MILAN  
 Pastor (Pfarrer) (fnu) VAB. ITZ, MILAN  
 Dr. (fnu) KARTSLEB, MILAN  
 Dr. (fnu) MARTIN, MILAN (possibly an Austrian Commercial Attache)  
 (fnu) BENUZZI, MILAN (former confidant of SS Standartenfuehrer RAUFF).

According to SAEVECKE, FRITZE's interviews were limited to the foregoing and to two other persons who refused to identify themselves. FRITZE first contacted the German Consulate where he spoke to MATZKE and the latter then arranged the interviews with the others. FRITZE informed SAEVECKE that MATZKE stated: "We don't desire that he be punished. He should only be released from service. Otherwise it could cause difficulties in our relations with Italy (Wir wollen gar nicht, dass er bestraft wird. Er soll nur aus dem Dienst entlassen werden. Sonst koennte es zu Schwierigkeiten betreffend die Beziehungen zu Italien kommen)." Further, as told to SAEVECKE by FRITZE, the denunciations were not specifically detailed, i.e. SAEVECKE did such and such on such and such a day in the presence of this or that person, but rather of a generalized nature.

As a result of his interview with FRITZE, and at the suggestion of BRUECKNER, SAEVECKE, denying the accusations and demanding an investigation to clear his record, took leave as of 1 July at his own volition until such time as the matter is clarified. Following his interview with FRITZE, SAEVECKE prepared a statement in his own defense which he forwarded to FRITZE. He has given me a copy of the statement and I am attaching two translations thereof hereto. At SAEVECKE's request, the statement should not be discussed with German authorities nor should they be informed that a copy is in our possession.

SAEVECKE is not certain of the motivation behind the attack although he believes that it may be the result of his indirect participation in the so-called "PARRI Trial" which occurred in Italy in the fall (November ?) of 1953. SAEVECKE's identity had been mentioned in publicized in Italy in connection with that trial as a result of an interview which he gave to a reporter interested in that trial on 17 Sep 1953. In this interview he defended PARRI, former chief of all Italian partisans who had been slandered by statements accusing him of collaboration with the German security police during the war, and SAEVECKE feels that his statements may have had considerable weight in influencing the court decision which amounted to a victory for PARRI. SAEVECKE believes that PARRI's opponents may have now chosen an attack on his, SAEVECKE's, past as the best means of revenging themselves for his defense of PARRI.

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On the other hand, SAEVECKE also seems to feel that (fnu) BENUZZI may be primarily responsible for the denunciations. He describes BENUZZI as a person of doubtful origin, a former member of the Italian OVRA (?), and as having been very close to RAUFF (ein Vertrauter von RAUFF). He suspects that BENUZZI may be attempting to whitewash RAUFF by painting SAEVECKE as having dominated RAUFF and being responsible for any reprehensible activity carried out in the area under RAUFF's jurisdiction.

SAEVECKE's statement, attached, seems to be lucid and clear and, if his denials are true, it will be difficult for any specific charges to be lodged against him. He has in his possession some recommendations from Italians who were acquainted with his activity in Italy, including, oddly enough, one from Don BICCHIARAI, and states that he is in a position to secure more.

SAEVECKE also served with the Security Police in Africa. There seems to be also a certain allegation that he participated in the deportation of Jews there. He states that he did not participate in any such deportations and, to his knowledge, Jews were not deported from Africa. He states that as a Kriminalrat and SS Sturmfuehrer he was detailed to the so-called "Kommando RAUFF" in TUNIS in early 1943. While under RAUFF's command in TUNIS he did participate in arrangements which were made for the commandeering of Jewish labor for the Wehrmacht. These arrangements were allegedly made on order of the Wehrmacht and in order to implement the Wehrmacht order SAEVECKE negotiated with the Committee of the Jewish Gemeinde in TUNIS. As a result of these negotiations, Jews were selected by the Gemeinde for the labor. Those selected were either picked up by the Wehrmacht and transported to the work or themselves reported to the place of work. Force was not involved.

On 16 July, BRUECKNER informed me that he not only sympathized with SAEVECKE but was supporting him insofar as possible. He stated that there were presently two factors involved in the case.

The first is that, as of 15 July, he has received notice from the Interior Ministry that SAEVECKE has now been officially relieved from duty pending official investigation into the charges against him with a view to determining whether or not a "Disciplinary Procedure" (Disziplinar Verfahren) should be commenced. BRUECKNER is personally of the opinion, based on the information thus far available to him, that SAEVECKE would probably be exonerated if it actually comes to a "Disciplinary Procedure". This attitude is based on the vague nature of the charges, the fact that SAEVECKE has never attempted to conceal his past and did not falsify his application for employment with the BKA, that SAEVECKE is in possession of statements attesting to his correct conduct during the period concerned and seems to be in a position to get other similar statements, and that he, in BRUECKNER's opinion, is not the sort of character who would be personally responsible for any misconduct. BRUECKNER stated, however, that should the evidence which will be developed during the investigation seriously incriminate SAEVECKE there

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exists the possibility that, aside from an administrative Disciplinary Procedure, he might be indicted and prosecuted by a German court.

The second factor is political and concerns the question of utilization of SAEVECKE in his present position should he be exonerated. BRUECKNER, who states that Interior Ministry personnel are extremely sensitive to foreign opinion (Auslandsoerig), fears that even though SAEVECKE be exonerated it will be decided by IM officials that he cannot be retained in his present sensitive post and will insist upon his transfer to some quiet sinecure. BRUECKNER stated that such action would be a blow to the Sicherungsgruppe inasmuch as SAEVECKE is the only man he has with organizational ability and is the official who has been primarily responsible for bringing the operations of the SG up to their present standard. In addition, BRUECKNER adds that transfer of an exonerated SAEVECKE would create a serious morale problem within the SG in that other SG officials, who all seemingly regard SAEVECKE highly, will feel that both he and they have been let down by reason of political considerations.

BRUECKNER is apparently as uncertain as SAEVECKE as to the origin of the charges. He stated, however, that he believes that the German Consul in MILAN, (fnu) MATZKE, who heard the charges from Italian sources, passed them on to GLOBKE in the Bundeskanzleramt and that GLOBKE in turn passed them on to the Interior Ministry.

With the prior approval of Mr. L. CAMPBELL, General TRUSCOTT's representative at OCA, I informed BRUECKNER that we, unofficially, were unhappy about the situation and would like to help should we be in a position to do so. I stated that we were making an attempt to secure Allied interrogation records dealing with SAEVECKE and SAEVECKE's activity in Italy and that, should those records amount to an exoneration of SAEVECKE, we would probably be in a position to make them available for SAEVECKE's benefit. I also stated that, depending on the content of the records, it might also be possible for an American representative to speak to von LEX about them. BRUECKNER stated that he would appreciate this very much and inquired as to how long it would take before the records would be available. I stated that it would probably be a matter of two weeks at least. BRUECKNER said that should the records be satisfactory exoneration of SAEVECKE there was the possibility that von LEX might order that SAEVECKE's suspension be lifted and discontinuance of the investigation.

SAEVECKE, who formerly worked for DAD in BERLIN and who, I suspect, may still maintain some sort of an association with that organization, has always been particularly cooperative with this office and has always exhibited an apparently genuine understanding appreciation of the necessity for close cooperation with US security agencies. For this reason, providing that it can be shown that he was not implicated in any war crimes, I am of the opinion that he should be supported to every extent possible by US intelligence

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agencies in his present predicament. This opinion is based upon the premise that it is desirable to lend every possible assistance in an attempt to provide for SAEVECKE's retention in his present post where he is in a position to continue to be of assistance to US intelligence and security agencies. It is therefore requested that should your Headquarters be in possession of any information which would tend to exonerate SAEVECKE of the charges against him that such evidence be forwarded to my office to be used in SAEVECKE's behalf. OCA, through DAD channels, has already passed such a request to Washington and to the British, who interrogated SAEVECKE extensively following his capture in Italy.

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Theo Saevecke  
Kriminalrat

Bonn, 1 Jul 1945

Herr Regierungsrat Fritze - Federal Ministry of the Interior - acquainted me today with reproaches concerning my former activities in Milan. Regierungsrat Fritze informed me of the details of the accusation and gave me the opportunity to vindicate myself verbally.

In the following written report I repeat my verbal comments concerning the accusations of which I was informed.

I joined the criminal police in 1934, was promoted Kommissar in 1935, Kriminalrat in 1943. Up to 1940 I was employed in various offices of the regular criminal police service according to my rank. I was then transferred from the Criminal police branch office in Berlin to the Criminal police office in Berlin where I was ordered to take preparatory measures for the future employment of the German criminal police in the colonial police. As a part of these preparations German criminal police officers were sent to Italy. I was trained in Rome for a future colonial service by the German criminal police service. Because of my knowledge of the Italian language which I had acquired in the course of my training I was - after the abandonment of the entire colonial project in Sep 1943 - transferred from the regular criminal police service and assigned by the Criminal police branch office in Berlin for further duty to the command of the German security police in Italy who appointed me chief of the branch office in Milan.

This branch office was subordinated to the "Police Chief of the German West" Standartenfuhrer Rauff in Milan. His superior officer was the Chief of the Security Police, Generalleutnant of the police Dr. Harbo. In turn was subordinated to the "Supreme SS and Police Chief and Minister General of the German Army in Italy", General of the Waffen-SS, Dr. Goebbels. My department was the entire city of Milan and part of the Lombardy.

The personnel of my office consisted of 20 German criminal police officers and approximately 20 Italian technical assistants. Our office was located in the hotel Regina which also accommodated my immediate superior. While the personnel of the other branch detachments which belonged to the command area of my superior also comprised officers of the SD, no such officers came under my command, on the contrary, since my superior was an SD-leader, they were directly subordinated to him.

The task of the security police in Italy, and therefore also the task of my detachment, was the safeguarding of the German Army in the rear area and the protection of the Italian population against the attacks of partisans.

For the completion of these tasks I was authorized within my department in accordance with general instructions to act on my own discretion. However, ever, as a result of the fact that my office was accommodated in the same building as my superior office, the internal matters of the branch detachment in Milan which I commanded and consequently my decisions also were more strongly influenced by the instructions and orders from higher quarters than were those of the other detachments. Certain mail for example which was intended for or dispatched by my office was checked by Standartenfuhrer Rauff, my superior.

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In Milan there is a prison, San Vittore, which serves the Italian courts as a jail. Following Rauff's request a certain portion of this prison was set aside for prisoners of the security service from the entire command area "Upper Italy - West". At a later time the German Army also consigned its prisoners to a special section of that prison. The three sections of the prison were independently administered by the Italian legal authorities, by the Security Police, and by the German Army respectively. I was responsible for the administration of that part of the prison which had been assigned to the security police under the immediate command of Rauff. As far as I remember the guards of our section of the prison comprised 2 officers of my detachment and approximately 20 guards (soldiers). For the purpose of guarding female prisoners 10 Catholic nuns were later employed by the prison authorities.

I furnished this general description of the situation in order to give an impression of the true background of the accusations which were raised against me and thus to make my comment on this more easily understandable.

Execution of hostages

After numerous attacks against members of the German Army and civilians (assassinations committed by partisans), a high-ranking office which was not known to me, ordered the Italian military court in Milan to take retaliatory measures. This court threatened the shooting of 15 hostages. The hostages were selected from among the prisoners who on account of the charges against them could expect a death sentence anyway. Some of those prisoners were detained in San Vittore, in the section of the security police. By request of Rauff, my superior, I furnished the Italian military court through him with the records of such prisoners who had participated in acts of sabotage. On the basis of this list a number of the hostages who were to be executed was selected. The exact number - was selected by the Italian military court. I know the remaining hostages were kept by the Italian authorities in other prisons. The execution was carried through by German soldiers.

I know that SS-Brigadefuehrer Tensfeld, "Police Officer" for the fighting of partisans in Upper Italy - West, was tried by a British Court on the ground of having shot hostages. The trial took place in 1946/47 in Italy. Tensfeld was acquitted in this connection as far as I remember the court established that the responsibility for the shooting of the 15 hostages rested with the Italian authorities and not with the Germans. Tensfeld is now living in Hamburg.

Persecution of Jews

As a result of a general order from the German Government I had to trace all Jews within my department. This task was carried through independently by a special missions office and also by my office.

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In accordance with the orders which I had received these Jews were consigned to San Vittore and after a short time transferred from there to a collection camp under the command of the chief of the security police in Italy. I could not at the time foresee the fate of those persecuted of which I only learned after the war.

Arrest and Deportation of the last form of a Secondary School.

I have heard of this incident for the first time through Regiermann's Pritze's remembrance. I had nothing to do with the matter.

Ill-treatment of Prisoners in San Vittore.

I have never ill-treated a prisoner or any other person over whom I had authority by virtue of my official position. Aside from the underneath-mentioned incidents no cases of ill-treatment of prisoners on the part of my subordinates have come to my knowledge. However, that does not altogether exclude the possibility that my subordinates have not always treated prisoners, i.e. according with the consideration which in normal times would have been a matter of course.

The following cases of ill-treatment have come to my knowledge.

On his delivery into San Vittore a prisoner was beaten by one of the Germans who was assigned to the prison as a guard. When I heard about this incident, I went immediately to the prison, reprimanded the culprit severely and apologized to the prisoner for the conduct of my subordinate. I learned only at a later time that the prisoner who had been apprehended and consigned to the prison under the name of Pozzi, was the partisan general Parodi.

Another time an Italian officer who was at the prison on official business, beat an Italian prisoner. I learned of this incident a few minutes later. Full of disgust I went to the prison where I met the officer and turned him out. In addition to that I prepared a report on the incident which I forwarded through Haff to the office of the Italian officer who was consequently removed from his office.

I should like to state in further explanation of this incident that during the war a Swiss paper (Sollinsma ?) reported on the incident. The paper stated after a detailed description of my personal particulars and some details of my personal career, that I had spontaneously called the officer to account. Up to the time when I was taken prisoner I kept a copy of that paper.

Among the Italian auxiliary guards there was one soldier of the rank of R.C.O. One day it was reported to me that the man had abused prisoners. I reported through the official channels about the man to his superiors and requested his removal. My request was complied with.

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In another case a member of an Army agency - as far as I remember it was an Abwehr-office in Trieste - abused a person during an interrogation at the prison of the security police in Milan. He was punished for this incident because known it was reported through the official channels to the competent Army agency, which immediately punished the man.

I do not remember any other cases of ill-treatment. Due to the abundance of impressions at the time and later I believe it to be impossible that I should have forgotten any major case of ill-treatment.

I do remember though that grave cases of ill-treatment occurred among the members of an Italian unit whose tasks were similar to those of our agency. We forcibly liberated the prisoners from the units in question, sent them to a doctor for treatment, and released them after an interrogation.

The only explanation for the accusation that members of my agency have allegedly with my knowledge abused prisoners might be that the persons who were heard to the matter are accusing Germany for want of appreciation of the true situation erroneously of occurrences for which they are not responsible.

I wish to emphasize again that I have never tolerated ill-treatment within my department and that I have never failed to reprimand the culprit. I believe it to be impossible that cases of ill-treatment should have occurred without my having obtained knowledge of the incident. In this connection I wish to point out that the head of the guard detachment at San Vittore who was a member of my agency is still living in Milan. He would certainly have been called to account by the Italian authorities if such cases of ill-treatment in which necessarily he would have been involved had occurred at the prison during the tour of his duty.

As far as I know several German members of my detachment are still living in Milan under their true name. Some of them have gone over to the partisans during the debacle and none of them was harmed. The other members of my staff were taken prisoners and returned to Milan later.

It is true that I have frequently conversed with Monsignore Don Bischerai. These conversations took place after he had in vain tried to talk to my superior and after my superior had referred him to me. As far as I remember these conversations dealt with the care for the prisoners by the clerical authorities, with interviews for arrested persons, and the exchange of prisoners against prisoners of the partisans. The decisions which were the result of these conversations were made after consultation with my superior or even on his request.

Monsignore Don Bischerai does not give a true picture of the situation when he states that his endeavors to obtain favors for the prisoners had been met with understanding and obligingness by Rauff, while I had obstinately refused his requests. Since he

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usually contacted Rauff with his matters, he could easily have complained to Rauff about my alleged intransigent attitude as a result of which I would have been called to account by my superior for disregarding his general instructions. Since Rauff, whose office was in the same building as mine, knew about all business of my office, such a divergence between our respective attitudes of our official duties is unthinkable. I have at the time found that Rauff, though seemingly giving consideration to the requests which were presented to him, advised me to act contrary to his former promises. This may have caused the impression that he was understanding and willing to help while I seemed particularly unyielding.

It seems that the persons who were heard to this matter were only mistaken in accusing me of allegedly culpable actions in their presentation of the attendant circumstances. For example not true that I fled from Milan without giving any notice to the prisoners. The members of the office of my superior as well as the personnel of my department including myself were taken prisoner by the US-Army in Milan. During the days preceding my captivity, Rauff and I on the one hand and Monsignore, Biccherali on the other hand as representative of the partisan forces of whom had entered Milan 6 days prior to the capture of the US-Army and taken over the government, negotiated on behalf of our prisoners to the authorities which had been contacted by the partisans. In the course of these negotiations Biccherali escorted by me only went to the prison under the flag of truce. At the prison I handed the prisoners their property and all evidence which had been secured in connection with their cases to a representative of the partisans. Biccherali then took me back to the hotel Regina together with the police officers who had meanwhile been taken prisoner and were detained at the prison. During the time of the partisan rule our office building was not attacked by the partisans as a result of which we were able to surrender to the US-Army in full possession of our arms.

I was already interrogated in detail by Allied agencies. The charges which were preferred against me. These interrogations began 4 days after I was taken prisoner and continued by the agencies in Rome for several weeks. The agencies in question had been furnished with the incriminating material by Italian and Allied officers who had served with partisan units. After the interrogation I was detained in two British P.O.W.-camps in Italy until the beginning of May 1946. My whereabouts must have been known in Milan because I learned later that Parri, former partisan leader and now Prime Minister, intervened with the British authorities for my release. It would have been easy at the time to charge me with any offences of which I might have made myself guilty, as was done with others, and to punish me accordingly. However, because I had stated as my place of residence the US-sector of Berlin, I was instead transferred in or about Apr 1946 to the US-P.O.W.-camp in Bad Nauheim for subsequent release.

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I was discharged from the P.O.W.-camp; however, because of my connection with the Criminal Police and the KSMF I was transferred to the internment camp in Hammelburg. In Oct 1947 I was returned to Dachau, i.e. to the extradition camp for war criminals. I was later I was handcuffed and transported individually and under guard to Klagenfurth where after three weeks of imprisonment I was presented to a British agency which dealt with the accusations of war crimes which had been committed in Italy. The investigation, which was conducted by a British major and took approximately one hour, dealt with the chain of command of German agencies in Italy. I was not at the time accused of any culpable acts. After the interrogation the officer told me that there was no inscription against me. For that reason he had no objections against my release. He promised to inform the commander of the Dachau war-crime camp that I was not guilty. I was then immediately returned to Dachau, escorted by a Major and without further delay without being in any other way treated as a war criminal. I received an account of the letter which my escort brought along. I immediately on my return to the Dachau war-crime camp was taken to the Dachau internment camp and released on the following day after automatic arrest.

The description of these post-war experiences is intended to show that I have already been subjected to another and most thorough investigation procedure during which all possible sources of information were available and which yet did not reveal any facts which could punish me for my activities in Milan.

I can, therefore, refute the accusations which are now being made against me with a safe conscience. However, the charges against me are so weighty and slanderous that I must insist on a clarification of every point of the accusation. It is of no importance to me if this is done, however, I request that I be given the opportunity to supplement my present summary statement and if it is considered necessary that the witnesses whom I shall name shall confirm the truth of my statement be heard to the matter.

With the exception of Monsignore Don Bicchieri I do not know anyone who has ever heard the names of any of the persons who were involved in this matter.

/s/ Bicchieri

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D-84549

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CO, Hq. 66th CIC Group, USARLUM, APO 154, US Army  
Attn: Mr. W.L. Parkinson, S-3 Office DATE: 2 May 1955

FROM : T.C. Hughes, OCA

SUBJECT: Security Group (Sicherungsgruppe), Federal Criminal Police Agency  
(Sonderkriminalamt) Personnel  
Re: SALVCKE, Theodor

1. Reference is made to previous correspondence concerning SUBJECT, an official of the Security Group, SGA, who is presently suspended from service by the Federal Interior Ministry pending completion of an investigation into allegations that SALVCKE participated in brutal treatment of Italian partisans and other persons during his World War II service with a German field security group in Italy.

2. During a recent conversation with SALVCKE he informed me that he is still under suspension, that the Interior Ministry official, Dr. (Gm.) von KIRCH, who was formerly responsible for conduct of the investigation of his case, had withdrawn from the investigation because of his sympathy with SALVCKE and dissatisfaction with Interior Ministry insistence on continuation of the case, and that a new investigating officer had been appointed by the Ministry to continue the investigation.

3. In addition, SALVCKE provided me confidentially with a copy of a 10 February 1955 letter which he had written to the Federal Interior Ministry with reference to his case. I am attaching one photostatic copy of this letter, together with four copies of translation thereof. This letter is of some interest in that it clearly indicates SALVCKE's frame of mind and his resentment toward the conduct of the investigation by the Federal Interior Ministry.

4. Of particular interest, with reference to SALVCKE's future personal employment, is the fact that he had requested the Interior Ministry in his letter to assign him to straight police work following completion of the investigation. This not only indicates that SALVCKE is certain that he, a permanent government career police official, cannot be discharged from government service as a result of the investigation but also that he does not wish to be returned to duty with the Security Group of the BKA, an organization which is concerned with investigations into espionage and political subversion.

5. I doubt that SALVCKE is entirely sincere with respect to his request to be assigned to straight police duty following his reinstatement. He has always appeared to be particularly interested in investigative work in the fields of espionage and security and has apparently enjoyed his former position with the SO. I believe however that he is aware that regardless of his personal wishes there is probably little chance of his being assigned to straight police duty. BRUECKNER, present head of the SO, has expressed his fear that should SALVCKE be exonerated of all charges,

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the Interior Ministry would still not consent to his return to the SG because it would be felt that a person who has been under fire and the subject of allegations concerning his unsuitability for service should not occupy a sensitive post within the SG where he would be the subject of continuing criticism from those quarters responsible for the present investigation. SAEVECKE is also undoubtedly aware of this probability and may simply be turning the tables in the Interior Ministry so that it will appear that the decision not to return to the SG is his.

6. If SAEVECKE is reinstated he will, in view of his comparatively high police grade of "Kriminalrat," in all probability be assigned to duty as a sub-department (Unterabteilung) head at the KKA headquarters in WIESBADEN.

1 Incl a/s (4 cys)

*ter Hughes*

8. MAY 1958

Control copy to:  
Mr. W.L. Parkinson

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SV-55-1007

TRANSLATION

Theo Saevecke  
Kriminalrat

Duisdorf, February 10, 1955

The Federal Ministry of the Interior,  
Rheinendorferstrasse,  
Bonn.

Subject: Initiation of a Formal Disciplinary Procedure against Me

Ref. : Your Decree of Initiation of October 13, 1954

After the charges against me had been clarified through the objective explanations of investigating officer, Dr. von Meibom, and on the basis of my statements, I could expect ~~after the final~~ interrogation on December 13, 1954 that I would be rehabilitated before Christmas. However, meantime two months have gone by without my rehabilitation having been pronounced or that further investigations were made.

Although, in the interest of the Ministry, I did not charge a solicitor with my defense, I do not believe I can further justify such consideration. I also request you to please reply to my question of October 25, 1954 whether I could take an Italian solicitor in Italy in order to protect my rightful interests. At disposal is one of the most respected Italian solicitors, a well-known former 'resistance movement' fighter who was imprisoned in Milan. Since the Ministry has not yet made any use of paragraph 52, section 2 (which I pointed out in my comments of October 23, 1954, sheet 1) of the Federal Disciplinary Regulations and I did not receive either an accusatory note within the set period of 4 months (paragraph 56 of the Federal Disciplinary Regulations) I request that I be notified of the status of the investigations in as much as after February 13, I will be forced to apply for a decision from the Federal Disciplinary Chamber.

Even though during the first months of the defamation campaign against me, I was willing to devote the benefits of my experience to State security problems for official reasons and in the interest of the State and general desire of the Sicherungsgruppe and other agencies, I am no longer willing to do so. I wish to again emphasize that I have nothing to fear as to the outcome of these investigations as long as they pursue the course of justice and truth. Meanwhile, however, I am convinced that my case is being considered from a political angle and because of this and the lengthy proceedings it has destroyed the basis of confidence.

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An attentive observer could easily ascertain during these 7 months that due to the proceedings against me, the majority of the SO officer who, day by day, perform their responsible duties, lost their belief necessary to support them. I was deeply affected by the initiation of the investigations at first secretly carried out, and the ready belief in the defamations against me which even resulted in my suspension, although I had offered to go on leave.

I was bitterly disappointed that, prior to the initiation of a formal disciplinary proceeding, no exonerating circumstances were sought during the preliminary investigations. I feel that the proceedings were not in compliance with paragraph 21 of the Federal Disciplinary Regulations. I regret that up to the present day - i.e. within these 7 months - my immediate supervisors have not requested to release their comments or official judgments, although same are generally asked for within the first week of the investigations.

Furthermore, the Sicherungsgruppe is employing about 60 officers and almost all of them know me as their superior. I am sure that they all, without being prompted by political reasons and without being influenced, would be willing to give their comments on me in my capacity as a private person, an officer and a superior.

I request your approval to my employment in a mere criminal police position subsequent to the termination of the proceedings. It was hard for me to make this decision and I cannot bear the responsibility for it.

As a supplement to my final interrogation on December 13, 1954, I would like to make further statements which will illustrate the situation in which the office in Milan found itself during the war.

The name "Koch" is very often mentioned in the partisan literature. In particular, his cruelties are described. This Koch, however, is in no way identical with the German criminal officer Koch who was serving with the security police in Milan. Due to the homonymous name many Italians were of the opinion that only the German Koch could be meant, as this particular name is unusual in Italy. During the occupation period "Koch", who was employed by our office, and also our agency had to suffer from this mistake and had to endure reproaches and accusations. Subsequent to the collapse interested circles even promoted such deception and it is very regrettable that it has been maintained up to the present time. On the occasion of my final interrogation on December 13, 1954, I made statements on Kriminal-Sekretär Koch who was employed by our agency.

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The so-called "Squadra Koch" (an autonomous Italian secret police) was headed by the Italian Dr. Pietro Koch and was immediately subordinated to Buffarini, the Italian Minister of the Interior. At first the Squadra was acting in Rome, went then to Florence and at last it was employed in Milan. It had its headquarters in the Via Uccello. Upon our request the Squadra was liquidated and all staff-members of the organization were arrested by Italians. Subsequent to the collapse the partisans publicly hanged a very well-known Italian married couple of actors in the Via Uccello. They were entirely guiltless but were hanged on alleged charges of their acquaintance with Koch. Subsequent to the collapse the thirty staff members of the Squadra - mostly Italian lawyers - were again arrested, partly shot, others were sentenced during large proceedings and were presumably pardoned at a later date. Koch who escaped surrendered to the court in Florence after his mother had been arrested as a hostage subsequent to the collapse. He was transferred to Rome where he was shot.

There were numerous Italian autonomous secret police organizations in Italy. They were taboo for us since it was to be avoided to cause the status of an occupied country. In Milan alone, about 1) Italian police groups were operating which did not maintain any connections with each other and were mostly subordinated to the Fuco or the Minister of the Interior personally. I remember the organizations "Fincio", "Bernasconi", "De Larderelli", the police group of the Volunteer Corps "Muti" headed by Dr. Pepe and Graf von Toledo. In addition, there was the quasi-judicial police "UPI" (ufficio politico investigativo), the Italian secret police "OVRA", the police groups of the "Black Brigades" (brigate nere), the "SS", the "SMI" (Italian military counter-intelligence), a police organization of the Italian air force, the "10th Legion" headed by Prince Valerio Borghese and others. These groups were increased by German organizations such as Geheime Feldpolizei units of the army and the air force, the armed forces intelligence service, units of the Feldgendarmerie and the intelligence offices (IG) of the German and Italian Divisions, the German armed forces Leitkommandanten and the post commanders and others. There were further special commands of the armed forces and the police force for combating the partisans.

All units and agencies which were named above independently arrested persons, effected searches and interrogations, and brought the culprits before German or Italian courts.

It is quite natural and the idea was then desired and promoted that the security police is blamed now for all actions which the various agencies carried out in the course of the hard defense struggle against the killing partisans. The courts of Milan was only interested in putting themselves into the best light and in appearing as the true savior of Italy. To his great regret the initiator Richiardi had to produce that man in a good light who

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had him take part in the negotiations between Self and Sullivan, namely Kauff. This could only be done at my expense. However, I am grateful that the fortune destined the British to be judges in 1945 to 1948. They precisely knew the situation in Italy, were very well informed about each individual who was taken and they were striving to make the difference between right and wrong, mean actions and those which were necessary, forced. They - at least "my" English judges - clearly, never the honorable enemy from the individual who was a coward and lacked character.

Meanwhile the world has changed and I know that, numerous Italian fighters of the resistance movement are prepared to tell the truth about the true conditions in Italy with a particular view to the situation in Milan. I see from letters which I received from Italy that they found out the part which Monsignore Bischoff actually played. But it is far from me to say dirt and unfairness to the public. But I have to ask the Ministry not to consider this reservation as consciousness of guilt or fear. I state again that I will confront this matter at my own or required time. However, such an investigation will have to be carried out in the public. I did not yet take this step because I am more obliged towards a European mission and cooperation than my defamers and mischief-makers. But I do not know in how far the attitude towards me has already stirred up affairs and awakened ghosts which would better continue sleeping. I do not know either in how far I still can mitigatively interfere, if necessary.

I am convinced that the Vatican does not know anything about the play of intrigues which was performed on the Milan stage 10 years after the war, and that it would not defend Monsignore Don Bischoff.

It is good news that former real fighters of the resistance movement prove to have the courage and the sense of honour to state the truth in court. Thus Fermo Solari, engineer, one of the leading partisan commanders, stated in the Milan court according to "Corriere della Sera", dated November 27, 1953:

"..... I tried to escape and a member of the Fascist militia who had shouted "stop" shot and hurt my leg. I recovered in the hospital of San Vittore and was then transferred to the hospital in Figuarda since there was danger of gangrene for the wound. They let me escape there. All the arrests which took place at the time were effected by the Fascist police and not by the German police."

If one goes into the question of who was responsible for any police actions prior to 1945, one touches a problem whose clarification, rectification and clear definition the former and present executive officers would highly appreciate. Subsequent to the collapse in 1945 not only the Allies but also the own country-men were searching executive officers and thousands of them had to give their lives for matters which they only executed according to the orders which they had received. It was easy and, with a view to the

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future, simultaneously dangerous to deny these men any protection and to put off their reference to the obliging obedience of laws by explaining that everyone had to decide for himself whether and when a law was a criminal one and that everyone had to consult his conscience for the execution of an action. In this connection I would like to remind of a statement which the English Field Marshal Montgomery made in Glasgow on October 28, 1946: "Soldiers will have to learn to obey orders even if all their instincts cry out against obeying them. I am a soldier. I obey orders." Since Montgomery will probably soon command German soldiers he will also want them to follow his conviction.

How many officers of the former police did lose their lives because they carried out severe interrogations. Why did no-one check as to who released the law and called those men to account? One would then have ascertained that this law as well as most of the ministerial decrees which concerned the security police, originated in the former Reich Ministry of the Interior.

I believe the entire police of the Federal Republic felt comforted when Leyer, Minister of the Interior in Land North Rhine Westphalia, had the courage to back his police officers when they were attacked in connection with the Autobahn robbers towards the end of 1954.

I would also like to remind of what the police union recently laid down under the title: "The Police has its Orders" (according to the Stern magazine of October 17, 1954). This reads as follows: "..... The police executives should not be charged with responsibilities which are actually responsibilities of the legislator. If we demand three sections of power in a democracy the responsibility must not be shoved off to authorities which are not responsible for the release of the laws....."

In this connection I want to refer again to the activities of the Kriminal-Sekretär Koch as a technician for Jewish problems with the agency in Milan. I do not believe that this man or our agency should be charged with guilt. When he released numerous Jews contrary to all orders which had been issued, he, in my opinion, incurred a responsibility which was big enough for him to bear in his capacity as a Kriminal-Sekretär. If at the time all high and highest authorities had displayed sufficient strength of character as legislators, each in his place, the laws on Jews would probably not have been released in this form. Should one be of the opinion that such boldness would have been punished with a death sentence, I request that it conscientiously be considered, what can be expected of us. Examples prove that very often we complied with our free decision and with our conscience without asking for what we could expect later on. Do not take it amiss if I doubt that we would have found men in our former high ministries who would have backed us up if, for instance, proceedings against us had been carried through on charges of release of Jews.

Further I would like to point out that, on April 20, 1945 - a few days prior to our captivity - Standartenfuehrer Kauff called us and all armed forces commandants and bound us by obligation to hold out until the last gasp and to obey the orders. This was a mean betrayal of us and of our credulity, particularly, since Kauff himself, besides the participation in the negotiations Wolff-Dulles, had come to an entirely personal and secret agreement with the opponents through Monsignore Don Bicchieri regarding his own and his family's safety.

It not denied that we complied with our duties and also called our political opponents to account by taking them into custody. Perhaps I would have borne even more responsibility had I then had the bitter experiences which I now have made. But where would it finally lead to if every official could freely decide for himself on political subjects, whether or not he would obey a law. In this respect ideologies and opinions are too different nowadays. If one does not have the courage to draw a clear line the conscience no longer knows whether it is to stand up for American, European, Soviet, Christian, party-political, social, capitalist or no interests whatsoever, or just a life devoid of responsibilities.

Is this not even today an acute problem with respect to any action and any event in the world?

On January 29, 1955, the General-Anzeiger published the following note:

"General Sir George Erskine, Supreme Commander of the British Colonial Forces in Kenya, announced in Nairobi yesterday that 260 Mau-Maus have to give their lives for each European civilian who was killed during the Mau-Mau riot. 7811 rioters were killed. Up to present 223 rioters were hanged on charges of murder. Death sentences were executed at 568 Mau-Maus on charges of other offences such as the possession of weapons and ammunition."

Such methods certainly are not or were not an example or a model for me. But one can see that I do not understand why a disciplinary proceeding has been initiated against me on the grounds of such mean defanations, particularly as 10 years have elapsed since I was arrested for the same accusations which presumably originated from the same source, and was discharged as guiltless and fully rehabilitated after three years of thorough investigations.

I believe that I should not conceal from the Ministry information I received from Ugo Luca Osteria in Italy on January 12, 1955. He says among others:

"Immediately after the war Monsignore Bicchieri started a campaign against the whole staff which was formerly employed in the Albergo Regina, in order to stress their activities, in particular,

Rauff's operations with whom he secretly had undefined and unfair negotiations. Motives which were of advantage to the curia in Milan prompted this campaign that was to demonstrate as much as possible Monsignore Don Bicchieri's and Cardinal Schuster's activities in favor of the politically persecuted although only a few of them who formerly held high offices, and in whom the curia of Milan was interested, drew profits from these operations.

I have to inform you that Monsignore Bicchieri never intervened on behalf of honorable persons and unknown and brave patriots who operated for the liberation. On the contrary Bicchieri never failed to use an opportunity to belittle the activities of other courageous priests who intervened in favor of the unfortunate persons. If necessary, he did not even shrink back from acting as a defamer. For instance, in the case of the priest Don Giovanni Barbareschi whom he denounced to Col. Rauff as a false priest amongst the partisans."

(In this respect I can state the following from my own experience. The priest Giovanni Barbareschi, called Don Giovanni, was a priest within the Italian resistance movement. Together with Capt. Tooker, an English signal officer, and an Italian radio operator he illegally crossed the border from Switzerland to Italy. This crossing became known and the three persons were arrested. Barbareschi was to transmit an order from Marshal Alexander to Graziani. Tooker had negotiated with Wolff he was taken to Como where he was held to Switzerland. The priest was long detained in the prison of Cernobbio near Como (also under the control of Rauff). Tooker and Barbareschi's operations were a competition with the activities in which Don Bicchieri took part.)

"Monsignore Bicchieri is the one who made the most untrue statements in regard to your operations..... I call attention to the fact that it is possible to find witnesses who will make statements on your conduct and that of your subordinates..... Due to the understanding and the righteousness of Capt. Senecke, this confirms what could be done for humanity during the occupational period.

Valerio Benuzzi. After his liberation from the allied prison in 1946, he started life with again confusing people. For a while Bicchieri financially supported him but then left him to his fate. He descended so low that he now lives on minor frauds. He resides in Rome at present and is living a miserable life. He does not have a good reputation and no one wants his company.

Swiss Newspaper. As far as I remember "Corriere del Ticino", Lugano (Switzerland), published an article in October 1944 on your humane conduct in Milan and in the prison of San Vittore contrary to those persons (personnel of UPI headed by Major Bassi and

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Oberleutnant Melli) who treated political prisoners in a sadistic manner..... I shall do my best to obtain a copy of that issue. Until then I can assure, that you seriously investigated the denouncements which you received, and which also led to the removal of Bossi and his staff. I can also certify that, upon your instructions, I arrested in December 1944, a group of Italian SS members, headed by Col. Saladini, who were guilty of committing severe actions against defenceless Italian citizens."

Luca Osteria today plays a role in the anti-Communist movement "Pace e Libertà" which is composed mostly of former fighters of the resistance movement. Osteria is considered the most feared opponent of the Communists in all Italy.

It might further be reported that Benussi, whom I consider as partly responsible for intrigues against me (my report of October 23, 1954) conveyed his greetings and regards to me last month.

Sgt. Saevecke  
Kriminalrat

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